

CLAIMS:

1. A cutting or crushing implement comprising:

a plurality of sets of jaws which when operated are together adapted to cut or crush a single length of material at a plurality of separate points along the length of said material,

whereby a single actuation of said implement is capable of causing each of said sets of jaws to at least partially close.

2. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sets of jaws are arranged side by side and actuation of the implement is capable of causing adjacent sets of jaws to at least partially close consecutively.

3. A crushing or cutting implement as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the consecutive closing of adjacent sets of jaws places a first set of jaws in a cutting or crushing configuration and a second immediately adjacent set of jaws in a substantially clamping configuration.

4. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said sets of jaws are adapted to pivot closed to complete a cutting, crushing or shearing operation.

5. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a single actuation of the implement is capable of causing all of the sets of jaws to close.

6. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is configured to be actuated through the operation of a hydraulic ram associated with machinery to which the implement is attached.

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7. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sets of jaws are all adapted to pivot about a single common axis to at least partially close.
- 5 8. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 7, wherein one jaw from each set of jaws is fixed relative to a common pivot axis
9. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of the jaws fixed relative to the common pivot axis are fixed at a different angle about the axis
- 10 10. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each set of jaws is formed by two opposing jaws elements which are adapted to move together to cut, crush, crack or shear a length of material.
11. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of sets of jaws are adapted to each execute a separate cut through a length of material in a single actuation of the implement.
- 15 12. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the sets of jaws are adapted to close at separate positions along the length of the material.
13. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further including a jaw displacement system adapted to modify the distance between adjacent jaws.
- 20 14. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each jaw set is formed from two opposed V-shaped jaw elements.
15. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each jaw includes at least one blade, wherein each blade incorporates a leading edge.

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16. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in claim 15, wherein the leading edge of each blade is oriented opposite to a leading edge of an immediately adjacent jaw's blade or blades.
- 5 17. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is configured to connect to machinery adapted to operate the implement.
18. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is adapted to connect to the actuator arm of an excavator.
19. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which are adapted to cut, crush, crack or shear a variety of different types of material.
- 10 20. A cutting or crushing implement as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which includes a driving ram adapted to operate in conjunction with the excavator to pivot top portions of the sets of jaws about a single common axis to close the jaws and complete a cutting operation.
- 15 21. A cutting or crushing implement substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings and/or examples.

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documents. It will be clearly understood that, although a number of prior art publications are referred to herein, this reference does not constitute an admission that any of these documents form part of the common general knowledge in the art, in New Zealand or in any other country.

- 5 It is acknowledged that the term 'comprise' may, under varying jurisdictions, be attributed with either an exclusive or an inclusive meaning. For the purpose of this specification, and unless otherwise noted, the term 'comprise' shall have an Inclusive meaning - i.e. that it will be taken to mean an inclusion of not only the listed components it directly references, but also other non-specified components or elements. This rationale will also be used when the
- 10 term 'comprised' or 'comprising' is used in relation to one or more steps in a method or process.

It is an object of the present invention to go at least some way towards addressing the foregoing problems or to at least to provide the industry with a useful choice.

- Further aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the
- 15 ensuing description which is given by way of example only.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a cutting or crushing implement comprising:

- a plurality of sets of jaws which when operated are together adapted to cut or crush a single
- 20 length of material at a plurality of separate points along the length of said material,
- whereby a single actuation of said implement is capable of causing each of said sets of jaws to at least partially close.

- According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a cutting or crushing implement substantially as described above wherein the sets of jaws are arranged side by
- 25 side and actuation of the implement is capable of causing adjacent sets of jaws to at least partially close consecutively.

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